

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02
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FM AMCONSUL BREMEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2154
INFO USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: BREMEN STUDENTS PROTEST

REF: 74 BREMEN A-1

1. SUMMARY. THREATENED BY A NEW PROPOSED BILL WHICH, IF PASSED, WOULD REDUCE THEIR CONTROL OF UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS, THE STUDENTS OF BREMEN UNIVERSITY AND SEVERAL OTHER LOCAL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE BILL WITH A STRIKE AND A DEMONSTRATION.
END SUMMARY

2. AT THE END OF 1975, THE BUNDESTAG PASSED THE FEDERAL EDUCATION LAW (HOCHSCHULRAHMENGESETZ) WHICH REQUIRED THAT THE PROFESSORS BE GIVEN BACK THE MAJORITY VOTE IN
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UNIVERSITY COUNCILS IN ALL QUESTIONS CONCERNING RESEARCH AND TEACHING. THE LAW ALSO AFFECTS UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT DISCIPLINE. THE BUNDESTAG LEFT IT TO THE LAENDER TO PASS THE APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THE FEDERAL LAW, THE BREMEN SENATOR

FOR UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS, HORST WERNER FRANKE, PRODUCED A BILL WHICH WOULD ABOLISH THE TRIPARTITE CODETERMINATION SYSTEM UNDER WHICH ACADEMICIANS, STUDENTS AND ADMINISTRATORS HAVE EQUAL SAY IN DETERMINING POLICY OF BREMEN UNIVERSITY. SENATOR FRANKE'S BILL, WHICH HE PLANS TO BRING BEFORE THE BREMEN SENAT ON DECEMBER 20, WOULD ALSO GIVE THE SENAT AN IMPORTANT VOICE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNIVERSITY AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING IN THE FUTURE.

4. THE UNIVERSITY HAS NOT GIVEN AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THE BILL, BECAUSE WHENEVER THE CONVENT (THE UNIVERSITY PARLIAMENT) AND THE UNIVERSITY SENATE (THE EXECUTIVE ORGAN OF THE CONVENT) ATTEMPTED TO DISCUSS THE BILL, MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (ASTA), WHICH IS DOMINATED BY THE EXTREME LEFTISTS, BROKE UP THE MEETINGS.

5. ON DECEMBER 10 A DELEGATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY AND THE OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING TOOK THE BULL BY THE HORNS AND INFORMED FRANKE THAT, UNLESS THE BREMEN SENAT ABANDONED PLANS TO DISCUSS THE BILL THIS YEAR, THE STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY AND THE HOCHSCHULEN WOULD BEGIN AN INDEFINITE STRIKE.

6. FRANKE REFUSED TO GIVE IN TO THE STUDENTS' ULTIMATUM AND INFORMED THEM THAT THE SENATE WOULD DEBATE THE BILL ON DECEMBER 20, AS PLANNED. SAYING THAT THE BREMEN UNIVERSITY IS ALREADY BURDENED WITH A NATION-WIDE ANTI-BREMEN UNIVERSITY PREJUDICE, FRANKE WARNED THE STUDENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT A STRIKE, WHICH WOULD COST THE TAXPAYERS DM 4.5 MILLION FOR TWO WEEKS, WOULD HURT BREMEN'S EFFORTS TOWARD EDUCATIONAL REFORM. DESPITE FRANKE'S WARNING, THE STRIKE BEGAN ON DECEMBER 6.

7. IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE HOW MANY OF THE UNIVERSITY'S 4,850 STUDENTS SUPPORT THE STRIKE, SINCE ONLY A MINORITY OF THE STUDENTS WERE PRESENT AT THE ASSEMBLY WHEN THE STRIKE VOTE WAS TAKEN. BUT THE ATTITUDE OF THE 1,500 STUDENTS IN THE TECHNICAL HOCHSCHULE IS BETTER UNDERSTOOD. OF THE 1,150 TECHNICAL HOCHSCHULE STUDENTS WHO ASSEMBLED AFTER THE STRIKE WAS TWO DAYS OLD, SLIGHTLY MORE THAN HALF VOTED TO CONTINUE THE STRIKE. THE STUDENTS AT THE HOCHSCHULE FOR NAUTICA VOTED NOT TO STRIKE AT ALL.

8. ON DECEMBER 10, FIVE STUDENTS ENTERED THE BUERGERSCHAFT TO PRESENT A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE BILL TO THE

SENATOR FOR EDUCATION THAPE. AFTER PRESENTING THE RESOLUTION, THEY DECIDED TO STAGE A "SIT IN" AND REFUSED TO LEAVE. POLICE THEN DRAGGED THE UNRESISTING STUDENTS FROM THE BUILDING. BUT THE STUDENTS WAITING OUTSIDE WERE NOT AS PASSIVE AND BECAME INVOLVED IN A SCUFFLE WITH THE POLICE WHO ARRESTED THREE STUDENTS. IN RESPONSE TO THE ARRESTS, ABOUT 150 STUDENTS BLOCKED TRAFFIC FOR TWO HOURS UNTIL THEIR COMRADES WERE RELEASED BY THE POLICE.

9. COMMENT: THE SENATOR FOR EDUCATION, FRANKE, IS IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION. ON ONE HAND, FRANKE, HIMSELF A LEFTIST, SUPPORTS THE CURRENT BREMEN UNIVERSITY MODEL AND WOULD LIKE TO KEEP IT. ON THE OTHER, HE IS OBLIGATED TO PASS A BILL IMPLEMENTING THE FEDERAL EDUCATION LAW. END COMMENT. LONGMYER

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